

AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY
1 April 1985

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Washington Roundup

Beat Goes On...

The Office of Management and Budget is warning the Reagan Administration that lower European Ariane space launcher program prices will undermine both U. S. private expendable launch vehicle companies and National Aeronautics and Space Administration launch programs in the late 1980s. OMB cited the U. S. "intelligence community's" best estimate of Arianespace's costs for full cost recovery price for the post-1987 space launch period.

An Administration working group will report on shuttle pricing this week to the Cabinet Committee on Commerce and Trade. OMB found that Ariane will be able to offer launch services in Fiscal 1986 dollars in 1989-91 of \$22-33 million for 1,200-1,400-lb. payloads compared with \$30 million for the NASA shuttle and \$37-42 million for private U. S. ELVs.

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Industry Observer

National Security Council has asked the Central Intelligence Agency to do a study on the actual costs of launching the European Ariane vehicle. Ariane-space and National Aeronautics and Space Administration have traded charges that the other's vehicles are being heavily subsidized.